

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9 and 10 are amended; and claims 4 and 5 are canceled. By this Amendment, the specification is amended to be in accordance with 37 CFR §1.77(b).

No new matter is added by these amendments.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) incorporate allowable subject matter. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Lee and Johnson in the May 4, 2007 interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,123,355 to Hans et al.; and claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hans et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,105,503 to Baginski et al.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 5, 6, 9 and 18-20 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 5 and intervening claim 4, and claims 4 and 5 are canceled. Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claim 1, and dependent claims 2, 3 and 6-20, are allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 6-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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